

## **DIRECTIONS** (actual directions you will see on the day of the GHSWT)

The purpose of this test is to find out how well you write on a persuasive topic in the time and space allowed. Your paper will be read by trained raters and scored on four qualities of effective writing: Ideas, Organization, Style, and Conventions. Writing is a process that begins with planning/prewriting, drafting, editing and revising, and then concludes with writing the final draft and proofreading. Since you have only 100 minutes to complete your essay, you must monitor your time carefully. Suggested times for each stage of the writing process are provided below, but these are only recommendations. You do not have to stop between stages of the process. When you finish one stage, continue the writing process.

Notice that you have two lined pages on which to write your final draft. Keep in mind as you plan and write that your final copy must fit into this space. In order for your paper to be properly scored, it is very important that you write on the given topic and in prose. Papers that consist entirely or mostly of poetry, musical lyrics, or rap will not be scored. Additionally, papers that are offensive in language or content will not be scored. Papers must be written in English only.

### **Part 1: Planning/Prewriting (15 minutes)**

Read your assigned topic on the Writing Topic Page and review the Writing Checklist. Use the Planning/Prewriting page

for your notes, jot list, or outline. Organize your major supporting details before writing the first draft.

### **Part 2: Drafting (35 minutes)**

Use your prewriting notes, write a first draft of your paper on the Drafting Sheet. Concentrate on getting your ideas down on paper in logical order.

### **Part 3: Revising and Editing (25 minutes)**

Carefully reread what you have written to see if your ideas are clear and fully developed. Consider any changes that would make your paper better.

### **Part 4: Final Draft (20 minutes)**

Rewrite your paper on pages 3 and 4 of this Answer Document. When you rewrite, make certain that you use a blue or black pen and write neatly. You may either print or write in cursive. Do not use pages 1 and 2 of the Answer Document for your writing. Only what is written on pages 3 and 4 of the Answer Document will be scored.

### **Part 5: Proofreading (5 minutes)**

When you finish writing your final draft, make any needed corrections on your paper. You may strike through words, but do so neatly. Do not use correction fluid.

### **Writing Situation:**

The state department of education provided funding for an experimental online school. All the classes will take place on the Internet, using email, online chat, and the World Wide Web. The students taking classes at this new online school will never meet each other face-to-face. They will only interact online with each other and with their teachers. The state is hoping this program will provide fairer educational access to students in outlying rural areas. Opponents of the program argue that because of their lack of interaction with other students in a traditional classroom, the students who attend this online school will not develop the social skills that should be a component of education. What is your position on the issue?

### **Directions**

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper stating your position on this issue and supporting it with convincing reasons and specific examples and evidence.

## **STUDENT WRITING CHECKLIST FOR PERSUASIVE WRITING**

### **Prepare Yourself to Write**

- Read the Writing Situation and Directions for Writing carefully.
- Brainstorm for ideas.
- Consider how to address your audience.
- Decide what ideas to include and how to organize them.
- Write only in English.

### **Make Your Paper Meaningful**

- Use your knowledge and/or personal experiences that are related to the topic.
- Express a clear point of view.
- Fully support your position with specific details, examples, and convincing reasons.
- Include an appeal to logic and/or emotions.
- Organize your ideas in a clear and logical order.
- Write a persuasive paper and stay on topic.

### **Make Your Paper Interesting to Read**

- Use examples and details that would be convincing to your audience.
- Use appropriate voice that shows your interest in the topic.
- Use precise, descriptive, vivid words.
- Vary the type, structure, and length of your sentences.
- Use effective transitions.

### **Edit and Revise Your Paper**

- Consider rearranging your ideas and changing words to make your paper better.
- Add additional information or details to make your paper complete.
- Proofread your paper for usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.